

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 /067 W

----- 116873

R 190930Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8512

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1601

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AG MO TS

SUBJ: CHATTI VISIT TO ALGIERS AND RABAT

REF: ALGIERS 695; RABAT 1346 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY SOURCES, FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE OF FONMIN CHATTI'S SUDDEN VISIT TO ALGIERS AND RABAT LAST WEEK WAS TO TRY TO LINE UP ALGERIAN AND MOROCCAN SUPPORT FOR GOT VIEW THAT QADHAFI'S LIBYA IS ACQUIRING A DANGEROUSLY HIGH LEVEL OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

2. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SINCE CHATTI'S VISIT CAME ON HEELS OF VISIT TO MAGHREB CAPITALS BY PLO'S FARUK QADDUMI (ABU LUTF), VISIT MAY HAVE ADDITIONALLY BEEN DESIGNED TO KEEP GOA AND GOM ADVISED THAT GOT DID NOT RPT NOT AGREE WITH WHAT WE ASSUME WAS QADDUMI'S PITCH HERE: THAT ARAB STATE WHOULD UNITE AGAINST ANY SEPARATE SETTLEMENT BY EGYPT WITH ISRAEL.

3. COMMENT: EXPRESSION OF TUNISIAN CONCERN REGARDING LIBYAN ARMS BUILDUP IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE KNOW TO
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BE PRESENT HIGH-LEVEL GOT POSITION AND IMPLICATIONS

THIS BUILDUP HAS WITH REGARD TO TUNISIAN SECURITY IN FACE OF
LIBYAN SUBVERSION. RE EGYPTIAN SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL,
TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED KISSINGER
STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH AND NO DOUBT HOPES ALGERIA AND
MOROCCO DO ALSO.
SEELYE

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NNN

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